CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for producing a fuel injection nozzle for an internal combustion engine, said method comprising:

- providing a nozzle body having a valve needle with a stop displaceably disposed therein,

- providing a nozzle holder having a pressure pin displaceably disposed therein, and

- providing a disk-shaped stop element in a region between the nozzle body and the nozzle holder, said stop element having a fuel inlet bore therein,

- axially tensioning the nozzle body and the nozzle holder against one another such that the stop element forms a first sealing surface bearing on a nozzle holder section, and a second sealing surface bearing on a nozzle body section, and

- producing at least one cutout in the two sealing surfaces in a single manufacturing operation, wherein said at least one cutout is separated from said fuel inlet bore.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the cutout is a punched, drilled or stamped cutout.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the cutout extends all the way through the stop element from the first to the second sealing surface.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of deepening the cutout by a predetermined axial depth in the first and the second sealing surfaces.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the cutout has a circular, oval or polygonal shape.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing the cutout in an edge region of the stop element.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A fuel injection nozzle for an internal combustion engine, said nozzle comprising:

- a nozzle body having a valve needle with a stop displaceably disposed therein,
- a nozzle holder having a pressure pin displaceably disposed therein, and
- a disk-shaped stop element provided in a region between the nozzle body and the nozzle holder, said stop element having a fuel inlet bore therein, wherein
- the nozzle body and the nozzle holder are axially tensioned against one another such that the stop element forms a first sealing surface bearing on a nozzle holder section, and a second sealing surface bearing on a nozzle body section, wherein the first and the second sealing surfaces each incorporate at least one cutout for increasing the contact pressure of the sealing surfaces, and the cutouts being implemented evenly opposite one another in the sealing surfaces and separated from said fuel inlet bore.

8. (Previously Presented) A fuel injection nozzle according to Claim 7, wherein the cutout extends all the way through the stop element from the first to the second sealing surfaces.

9. (Previously Presented) A fuel injection nozzle according to Claim 7, wherein the cutout is deepened by a predetermined axial depth in the first and the second sealing surface.

10. (Previously Presented) A fuel injection nozzle according to Claim 7, wherein the cutout has a circular, oval or polygonal shape.

11. (Previously Presented) A fuel injection nozzle according to Claim 7, wherein the cutout is provided in an edge region of the stop element.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A method for manufacturing a fuel injection nozzle for an internal combustion engine, said method comprising:

- displaceably disposing a valve needle with a stop within a nozzle body,
- displaceably disposing a pressure pin within a nozzle holder,
- providing a disk-shaped stop element in a region between the nozzle body and the nozzle holder, said stop element having a fuel inlet bore therein,
- axially tensioning the nozzle body and the nozzle holder against one another such that the stop element forms a first sealing surface bearing on a nozzle holder section, and a second sealing surface bearing on a nozzle body section, and
- producing at least one cutout in the two sealing surfaces in a single manufacturing operation, wherein said at least one cutout is separated from said fuel inlet bore.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the cutout is a punched, drilled or stamped cutout.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the cutout extends all the way through the stop element from the first to the second sealing surface.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising the step of deepening the cutout by a predetermined axial depth in the first and the second sealing surfaces.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the cutout has a circular, oval or polygonal shape.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising the step of providing an cutout in the edge region of the stop element.